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SWALE

SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1952

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**FRANK HAUXWELL,**

**M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.),**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**



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# SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Chairman* — A. L. BAKER, Esq.

Parish	Councillors	
Badlesmere and Leaveland	Morgan-Kirby, D. W.	<i>o</i>
Bapchild ... ..	Baker, A. L.	<i>ox</i>
Bobbing and Iwade ... ..	Craddock, J. W.	<i>o</i>
Borden ... ..	Hattie, W.	<i>o</i>
Boughton ... ..	Rook, H.	<i>x</i>
Bredgar ... ..	Southern, J. D.	<i>o</i>
Buckland, Norton and Stone ...	Burbridge, E. J.	
Doddington ... ..	Elvy, F.	<i>o</i>
Dunkirk ... ..	Ash, T. F.	
Eastling ... ..	Meeson, A. J.	
Faversham Without ... ..		
Goodnestone and Graveney ...	Vinson, E.	
Halstow Lower ... ..	Bennett, A. J.	<i>x</i>
Hartlip ... ..	Stevens, W. S.	<i>x</i>
Hernhill ... ..		
Kingsdown, Milsted and Rodmersham ... ..	White, W. H.	<i>o</i>
Luddenham ... ..	Stevens, S.	
Lynsted ... ..	Waters, F. H.	<i>ox</i>
Newington ... ..	Harlow, E. D.	<i>x</i>
Newnham ... ..	Prentis, J. E.	<i>ox</i>
Oare ... ..	Heathfield, G. L.	
Ospringe ... ..	Fisher, G. F.	
Selling ... ..	Gaskain, E. W.	<i>x</i>
Sheldwich ... ..	Milgate, E. T.	
Stalisfield ... ..	Lintott, P.	
Teynham ... ..	Moor, D. J.	<i>x</i>
Throwley ... ..	Haydock-Wilson, H.	
Tonge ... ..	Gascoyne G. A. C.	<i>x</i>
Tunstall ... ..	Bensted, F. H.	
Upchurch ... ..	Bishop, C. C.	<i>o</i>

*o* Members of the Health Committee

*x* Members of the Housing Committee

**Clerk of the Council** — BRYAN TASSELL, Esq.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **Medical Officer of Health :**

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

## **Chief Sanitary Inspector :**

Mr. R. K. DUNNING, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

## **Sanitary Inspectors :**

Mr. C. G. A. RUDD, C.R.S.I.

Mr. R. A. O. BAMPTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

## **Clerical Staff :**

Miss B. R. HODGES (left April, 1952)

Miss R. A. PARKER (from May, 1952)

Mr. S. B. BROOK

## **Rodent Operators :**

Mr. F. Lockwood (left March, 1952)

Mr. R. S. Power



## SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
48, Bell Road,  
Sittingbourne,  
Kent.

The Chairman and Members of the Swale Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Swale Rural District for the year 1952.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the mid-year population of the area was 19,960, which is an increase of 380 over last year's estimate and an increase of 246 over the actual Census count taken in April, 1951. This indicates that the increase shown at the last Census to have occurred during the inter-censal period 1931 to 1951 is still being maintained.

The Birth Rate for the year at 16.3 per 1,000 of the population was the same as in the previous year and though lower than the high rates current during the immediate post war years shows a halting in the decline which has been taking place since those years.

The Crude Death Rate at 9.8 per 1,000 of the population is believed to be the lowest that has ever been recorded for the area and when corrected to 8.3 per 1,000 for age and sex distribution compares very favourably with that of 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. Approximately 42% of the deaths that occurred were of persons over 75 years of age.

It is also very satisfactory to note that though there was a slight increase in the number of infants under 1 year of age who died during 1952 (6 in 1952 and 5 in 1951) the Infant Mortality Rate for the area at 18.46 per 1,000 live births, though higher than in the previous year when it was 15.6 per 1,000, still compares favourably with that of 27.6 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. As mentioned in the Report, however, there is still work to be done in the saving of infants who die under the age of one week. These deaths have so far been the most resistant to preventive measures. This problem is a National one and at present the best approach would seem to be in the care of the mother and skilled attention at birth.

In regard to Infectious Disease, 1952, was a comparatively healthy year, a total of only 236 cases being notified in comparison with 690 in 1951 and 665 in 1950. This was due mainly to absence of Measles and Whooping Cough in anything like epidemic prevalence.

During the year, 12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, being the same number as in the previous year, but the number of deaths attributed to this disease increased from 5 in 1951 to 6 in 1952. When dealing with comparatively small figures, however, variations are always to be expected and generally speaking it can be said that though there has been little variation in the number of cases notified during recent years there has been, since 1945, a gradual diminution in the number of deaths occurring.

In that portion of the Report relating to the general sanitary conditions of the area, supervision of food supplies and housing, I am indebted to Mr. R. K. Dunning, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Reports on water and milk supplies can be considered satisfactory though in the case of some private wells still in use the question of closure of the well and provision of an alternative supply is under serious consideration. As most of these wells are a considerable distance from any piped supply the remedy is not easy.

The maintenance of food hygiene ranks as a high priority as indicated by the fact that 491 visits of inspection were made to food shops, dairies, restaurants, etc., during the year. Generally speaking the standard of hygiene was very satisfactory and in only eight instances was it necessary to serve notices on the occupiers and these were for minor defects.

As in many other areas, Housing is still one of the most serious problems to be dealt with. Though 68 new houses had been erected in the area during the year, the total number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was only 33 more than in the previous year. In part this was due to demolition of insanitary property, in part to undertakings given by the owners in respect of houses considered unfit for occupation that they would not be re-let until rendered fit and in part to conversion of housing premises to other usage. In a few cases conversion of two small cottages into one with better accommodation was carried out. It would seem therefore — especially if it is also remembered that the population of the area was estimated to have increased by 380 during the period mid-1951 to mid-1952 — that still more houses are required. Further, there are many more old and dilapidated properties which should be condemned in the near future and new accommodation found for the tenants if the health of the area is to be maintained.

Apart from the question of dealing with insanitary property which should be condemned there is the equally serious problem of dealing with houses which, though sub-standard, could if repaired and renovated give fairly reasonable accommodation for some years yet. These are the houses which during the Rural Housing Survey were placed in Category 3 (houses requiring repair, struc-



tural alteration or improvement) and Category 4 (houses appropriate for reconditioning). At that survey, 1,606 houses were classified under Category 3 and 1,173 in Category 4. To force owners to carry out any extensive work under Statutory Notices is impracticable under present restrictions imposed by the Rent Restrictions Acts owing to the high cost of maintenance. The most that can be done has been to get the most obvious and necessary repairs carried out. Yet these houses are rapidly deteriorating into Category 5 (houses unfit for human habitation).

For the carrying on of the work of the Department I am greatly indebted to all members of the Staff and especially to the ever willing and helpful assistance of Mr. R. K. Dunning, Chief Sanitary Inspector — also to other Officers of the Council for their very ready co-operation in carrying out the very varied duties that fall to my lot.

I would also take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council for their encouragement and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

## SECTION I

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. CLIMATOLOGY

After a fairly dry Spring and early Summer, the Autumn was wet and cold and Winter set in early. The total rainfall for the year was, however, less than in the previous year, that recorded at the Faversham Sewage Works being 26.28 inches as compared with 32.28 inches in 1951, and that at the Highsted Water Works, Sittingbourne, 27.26 inches in 1952 compared with 37.19 inches in 1951.

#### 2. AREA

No change from 1951 — 62,015 acres (approximately 97 square miles).

#### 3. POPULATION

The estimated mid-year population of the District as given by the Registrar General was 19,960 showing an increase of 380 over last year's estimate, and an increase of 246 over the 1951 Census figure. The natural increase in population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths during 1952 was 132.



4. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

Despite the fact that 68 new houses were built during the year the number of inhabited houses in the area increased by 33 only to a total of 6,261. The discrepancy is mainly accounted for by houses condemned under the Housing Acts and premises previously used for housing now used for other purposes. There also have been occasions when two cottages have been made into one house with improvements.

5. RATEABLE VALUE

£76,434 (£76,434).

6. SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE

£312 4s. 5d. (£312 4s. 5d.).

SECTION II  
VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(i) Live Births		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	.....	158 (158)	154 (148)	312 (306)
Illegitimate	.....	9 (6)	4 (8)	13 (14)
		167 (164)	158 (156)	325 (320)
(ii) Still Births		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	.....	4 (1)	3 (6)	7 (7)
Illegitimate	.....	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
		4 (1)	3 (7)	7 (8)

(iii) Birth Rate.—The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population remains the same as for last year, viz., 16.3. This appears to mark a halting in the fall in birth rates which had been continuous since the high rates of the immediate post-war years (1946—21.9 per 1,000, 1947—24.4 per 1,000). The corrected birth date for this area is 16.9 per 1,000 which is higher than the rate of 15.3 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

(iv) Percentage of Still Births and Illegitimate Rate.—The percentage of still births to total births has fallen slightly from 2.5% in 1951 to 2.2% in 1952 and the illegitimate rate also shows a slight drop from 4.4% in 1951 to 4% in 1952.

(v) Excess of Births over Deaths.—The excess of births over deaths increased in 1952 to 132 as compared with 109 in 1951 and 118 in 1950.

(vi) Table I shows the number of births and the birth rates since 1946.

## 2. DEATHS

(a) The number of deaths from all causes which fell from 241 in 1950 to 211 in 1951 fell again during 1952 to 193. Of these, 107 were males and 86 females.

(b) The crude death rate per 1,000 of the population dropped from 10.8 in 1951 to 9.8 in 1952 and when corrected for age and sex distribution to 8.33 per 1,000, which compares very favourably with the death rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 11.3 per 1,000 population.

(c) Table I shows the number of deaths and the death rates since 1946 and Table 2 shows the causes of death during 1952 classified by the Registrar General under 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

TABLE 1

Births and Deaths 1946 - 1952

Year	No. of Births	No. of Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
1946	388	219	169	21.9	12.4
1947	439	228	211	24.4	12.7
1948	391	219	172	20.3	11.4
1949	367	227	140	19.3	11.9
1950	359	241	118	18.8	12.6
1951	320	211	109	16.3	10.8
1952	325	193	132	16.3	9.8

TABLE 2  
Causes of Death

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	5 ( 3)	— ( 1)	5 ( 4)
Tuberculosis Other ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease ...	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Diphtheria ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ...	— ( 1)	— (—)	— ( 1)
Meningo-coccal infections ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Measles ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and Parasitic diseases ...	— ( 1)	— (—)	— ( 1)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7 ( 3)	4 ( 1)	11 ( 4)
Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus ...	5 ( 3)	— ( 1)	5 ( 4)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	4 ( 3)	4 ( 3)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	— ( 2)	— ( 2)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	10 (11)	10 ( 6)	20 (17)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Diabetes ...	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9 (10)	12 (17)	21 (27)
Coronary disease angina ...	16 (15)	6 ( 8)	22 (23)
Hypertension with heart disease ...	— ( 4)	2 (—)	2 ( 4)
Other heart disease ...	23 (29)	22 (23)	45 (52)
Other circulatory disease ...	2 (10)	4 ( 1)	6 (11)
Influenza ...	— ( 5)	3 (—)	3 ( 5)
Pneumonia ...	5 (10)	3 ( 3)	8 (13)
Bronchitis ...	5 ( 3)	— ( 5)	5 ( 8)
Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3 (—)	1 ( 1)	4 ( 1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1 (—)	— ( 4)	1 ( 4)
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2 ( 2)	— (—)	2 ( 2)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Congenital malformations ...	1 ( 1)	— (—)	1 ( 1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6 (10)	10 ( 8)	16 (18)
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2 ( 2)	— (—)	2 ( 2)
All other accidents ...	1 ( 2)	2 ( 1)	3 ( 3)
Suicide ...	1 ( 1)	1 (—)	2 ( 1)
Homicide and operations of war ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Totals ...	107 (126)	86 (85)	193 (211)

In regard to the causes of death, there is little appreciable difference in comparison with previous years. As is to be expected in a population containing an increasing proportion of older people, deaths from heart disease and diseases associated therewith still account for the largest proportion of deaths — approximately 38% of all deaths in 1952.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.



Despite the cold and wet Autumn, and Winter, there was a slight decrease in deaths attributable to respiratory diseases.

There was some increase in 1952 in the number of deaths attributed to malignant diseases (40 in 1952, 31 in 1951). This increase appears to be mainly in deaths due to malignant growths in the stomach with a smaller increase in deaths due to malignant growths in bronchus and/or lungs. Deaths due to malignant diseases now account for 20% of all deaths occurring.

For the third year in succession there were no deaths associated with pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The following statement shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths in 1952.

	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	Over 85	Total
Male	2	—	2	1	4	1	8	23	26	29	11	107
Female	4	—	1	—	—	1	7	15	16	29	13	86
	6	—	3	1	4	2	15	38	42	58	24	193

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 6 in 1952, being one more than in 1951. The infant mortality rate for the year was 18.46 per 1,000 live births compared with 15.6 for this area in 1951, and 27.6 for England and Wales as a whole in 1952.

The causes of infant deaths are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3  
INFANT DEATHS

Cause of Death	Place of Death	Males	Females
1. Broncho Pneumonia ...	Hospital	—	2 days
2. Broncho Pneumonia ...	Hospital	1 week	—
3. Asphyxia ... ..	Home	—	3 mths.
4. Icterus Gravis Neonatorum .	Home	—	4 hrs.
5. Prematurity ... ..	Home	—	5 days
6. Haemorrhage ... ..	Home	2 days	—



In Table 3 there is again seen the very high proportion (5 of the 6 deaths that occurred) of these infant deaths which take place within one week of birth. Though great advance has been made in the past 25 years in the saving of infant lives at the older ages these deaths of the very young still cause much anxiety and stress the great importance of good ante-natal care with skilled attention to the infant at birth.

### SECTION III

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. The total number of the various Infectious Diseases notified during the year, the number of cases admitted to hospital or sanatorium and the number of deaths attributed to each disease in the Registrar General's classification of deaths is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Disease	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27 ( 25)	17	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	28 (287)	—	—
Measles ... ..	131 (334)	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2 ( 3)	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	26 ( 11)	3	8
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	— ( 3)	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	7 ( 4)	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	— ( 7)	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	— (—)	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	— (—)	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	— (—)	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	— (—)	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2 (—)	—	—
Malaria ... ..	— (—)	—	—
T.B. Pulmonary ... ..	12 ( 12)	5	5
T.B. Non-Pulmonary ... ..	1 ( 4)	1	—
	236 (690)	29	13

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

2. Table 5 shows the age groups affected by the diseases notified.

**TABLE 5**  
**Age Group Distribution — Infectious Disease**

Disease	Und 1	0-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	O'er 55	Tot
Scarlet Fever ...	—	7	10	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	27
Whooping Cough	—	13	13	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Measles ...	—	42	78	7	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	131
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	2	3	3	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	1	1	9	26
Dysentery ...	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	7
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Pulmonary T.B.	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	3	—	1	1	1	1	12
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	2	66	105	18	9	4	2	7	1	3	4	3	12	236

In comparison with the previous two years there was in 1952 a very considerable reduction in the number of cases of Infectious Disease (236 cases in 1952, 690 in 1951 and 665 in 1950). This was mainly due to reduction in the incidence of both Measles and Whooping Cough which had been very prevalent in the area in the two preceding years. During 1952, though cases of Measles were reported every month there were only two periods, i.e., in March and in April and again in November and December, when the disease assumed mildly epidemic form. In all cases the disease was mild in type.

Cases of Whooping Cough were much fewer in 1952 than in the previous year (28 in 1952, 287 in 1951).

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year — one in July and one in November. There appeared to be no connection either in time or place between the two cases — one was at Hartlip and one at Throwley. Both cases made good recoveries.

The 7 cases of Dysentery that occurred were confined to three households, 5 cases in one house and 1 each in the remaining two households. Six of the cases occurred in the Parish of Upchurch. Despite intensive enquiries no source of infection was discovered. The cases recovered without any spread of infection.

3. Appendix “A” shows the distribution in the various Parishes of cases of Infectious Disease during 1952.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Twelve cases of Pulmonary and one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 5 deaths were



attributed to the Pulmonary form of the disease. There were no deaths from the Non-Pulmonary form for the third year in succession.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was the same as in the previous year and from Table 6 it will be seen that though there has been some slight reduction from the numbers notified during the immediate post-war years, there has — apart from the year 1950 when only 7 cases were notified — been comparatively little variation in the number of cases notified in recent years.

There was in 1952, as compared with the previous year, an increase by one in the number of deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis resulting in an increase in the death rate from 2.04 per 10,000 of the population in 1951 to 2.5 per 10,000 in 1952. When dealing with comparatively small numbers, however, slight variations are bound to occur and generally speaking it will be seen from Table 6 that there has been a gradual diminution in the death rate from this form of the disease since 1945.

In regard to the Non-Pulmonary form of the disease there has been a very considerable reduction in the number of cases occurring and there have been no deaths attributed to this form for three successive years.

The number of new notifications, deaths and death rates for Tuberculosis since 1945 are shown in Table 6.

A summary of cases remaining in the Tuberculosis Register for the area at the end of 1952 is shown in Table 7. There has, over a period of years, been a gradual increase in the numbers in that Register. That is what might be expected. Not only are notifications exceeding deaths each year, but the great advances made in treatment during recent years the expectation of life of these patients has been considerably lengthened.

TABLE 6  
Number of Tuberculosis cases notified and number of deaths  
each year from 1945 - 1952

Year	No. of primary notifications received		Deaths		Death rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1945	14	3	10	2	6.03	1.2
1946	12	6	8	1	4.5	0.5
1947	10	3	9	—	5.01	0.0
1948	16	3	4	3	2.08	1.5
1949	11	5	5	3	2.6	1.5
1950	7	1	3	—	1.5	0.0
1951	12	4	4	—	2.04	0.0
1952	12	1	5	—	2.5	0.0

TABLE 7  
Summary of Tuberculosis Register.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'y		Total
	M	F	M	F	
No. of cases on Register at 1st Jan. 1952	50(43)	36(32)	15(15)	12(11)	113(101)
New cases ... ..	4( 9)	8( 3)	—( 1)	1( 3)	13( 16)
Restored to Register...	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—( —)
Transferred to Swale .	2( 6)	1( 2)	—(—)	1(—)	4( 8)
	56(58)	45(37)	15(16)	14(14)	130(125)
Died ... ..	5( 3)	—(—)	—(—)	—( 1)	5( 4)
Left Swale ... ..	—( 3)	1( 1)	—(—)	—( 1)	1( 5)
Recovered ... ..	—( 1)	—(—)	—( 1)	—(—)	—( 2)
Cancelled Non-T.B. ...	—( 1)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—( 1)
Balance remaining at 31st Dec., 1952 ...	51(50)	44(36)	15(15)	14(12)	124(113)

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation.—From figures supplied by courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is shown that 307 children under 5 years of age were immunised during 1952. The total percentage of children in this age group who have now been protected is estimated at 60% which is an improvement on the percentages of the two previous years (54.7% in 1951, 57.01% in 1950). In addition 33 children between 5 and 15 were also immunised. Of all children under 15 years old it is estimated, however, that only 36.6% have been immunised against diphtheria. This is much too low for safety.

The number of reinforcing innoculations carried out (mainly children commencing school life) was 260, slightly less than the 279 of last year.

(ii) Vaccination.—Also by courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is reported that 209 primary vaccinations and 47 re-vaccinations were carried out, a reduction from last year's figures of 233 and 87 respectively.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.



## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are administered by the Kent County Council as local Health Authority. Those Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children ; the provision of Midwives ; Health Visiting and Home Nursing ; Vaccination and Immunisation ; Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care and the Domestic Help Services. Mental Welfare and the treatment and care of Tuberculosis patients is provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

Though it must be granted that economically and administratively there are great advantages in administering these Services on a large area basis, there is no doubt but that owing to administration by a Central Authority the District Medical Officer is deprived of much important information regarding the health of his area. In recent years there has been much talk about delegation of these and other health functions to Borough and Urban Districts though not to Rural Districts. It seems to me, however, that a far more useful procedure would be that for each of the groups of Authorities for which a District Medical Officer acts there should be an Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council and that the District Medical Officer act also as Medical Officer to that Sub-Committee with definite executive functions in that area. Only in this way, by being in personal touch with these Services, can he hope to learn and deal with efficiently the various health problems that arise in his area.

#### School Health Services

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, the following extracts from the Annual Report on the School Health Services in the area are given.

(a) Medical Inspections :—

(i)	Number of children inspected (periodic) ...	889	(578)
(ii)	Number of special inspections ...	21	(20)
(iii)	Number of re-inspections ...	220	(374)
(iv)	Number of children found at periodic inspections to require treatment ...	74	(35)
(v)	Percentage requiring treatment ...	8.3%	(6.1%)

The defects found during these inspections are given in the following table from which it will be seen that eye defects and defects of ear, nose and throat are still the principal reason for pupils requiring treatment.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to previous year.

Defects								Number
Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ears, nose and throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Orthopædic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Psychological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

### (b) General Condition

The classification of the general condition of children inspected was as follows :—

Groups	Number Inspected	Percentages		
		Good	Fair	Poor
Entrants ... ..	398(208)	23.9(29.3)	70.3(59.6)	5.8(11.1)
Second Age Group	219(209)	35.2(34.4)	62.1(58.5)	2.7( 3.1)
Third Age Group	—( — )	—( — )	—( — )	—( — )
Other periodic inspections ...	272(141)	25.0(35.5)	61.8(61.7)	13.2( 2.8)
Totals ...	889(578)	27.0(34.4)	65.7(59.7)	7.3( 5.9)

From these figures it would appear that the health of the school child was not quite as good as in the previous year. During 1952 8.3% of all children examined at periodic inspections (i.e., the routine age groups) were suffering from defects requiring treatment whereas in 1951 the number was 6.1%. When considered in relation to their classification as to general condition (popularly known as the nutritional standard) there has also been some deterioration. The number classified as “good” fell from 34.4% in 1951 to 27% in 1952 and those classified as “poor” increased from 5.9% in 1951 to 7.3% in 1952. Though the 1952 figures are not as good as in the previous year it is not considered necessary to sound an alarm. Rather is it that the position be watched. The total number of children examined in the area is comparatively speaking small and variations are bound to occur from year to year.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to previous year.



### (c) Dental Inspection

It was not possible for the Mobile Clinic to visit this area during 1952. Patients in need of treatment were referred to the nearest permanent clinic and the figures are included in the Faversham and Sittingbourne reports.

### (d) Infestation with Vermin

(i)	Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurse or other authorised persons	... ..	5,605	(5,388)
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	... ..	31	(35)
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944)		12	(10)

## SECTION V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supplies

For a rural area the piped main supplies are very extensive and there are comparatively few properties which cannot enjoy this amenity. The Western Parishes receive water from the Chatham Water Company, distributed through mains belonging to the Council. With the exception of Oare which receives water from the Faversham Water Company, the remaining Parishes are served by the Mid Kent Water Company.

No further premises were connected to the main supply during the year so that the percentage of houses with piped supply inside the house remain at 94.8%, of houses with a standpipe in the yard 3.2% and the remaining 2% rely on wells or have water carted to them.

Samples of water from the piped main supplies in the area were taken every quarter and the results were quite satisfactory. A sample of water taken from a well supplying a block of 7 cottages in the Parish of Upchurch showed evidence of pollution and negotiations are in hand with the owners of the property for connecting to a main. As the nearest main is some 700 yards away and any service pipe would have to come through land in four different ownerships the matter is rather complicated but it is hoped the work will be carried out in the near future.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to previous year.

Two further cases of polluted wells revealed as the result of sampling — one in Graveney and one in Ospringe. Both are being kept under constant observation and it is hoped eventually that it may be possible to connect to a main supply. Meanwhile the owner occupier in one case is boiling all drinking water and, in the second case drinking water is being carted to the premises.

## **2. Drainage and Sewerage**

To meet the needs of a new housing site and also to abate nuisances from overflowing cesspools in the area, 409 yards of 6 inch and 9 inch sewer were laid at Rodmersham discharging into a sewer of the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council.

In developing a housing site at Teynham it was necessary to lay 649 yards of 9 inch sewer to connect the properties to the Council's sewerage system.

There are sewerage systems in the parishes of Boughton, Lynsted, Teynham, Iwade, Newington, Oare and parts of Borden and Rodmersham. The remaining parishes are served by cesspools and septic tanks.

A scheme is being prepared for new sewage works at Lower Halstow, sewerage the parish and connecting the sewer from Newington to these new works. The existing works at Newington will then be abandoned.

## **3. Scavenging and Cesspool Emptying**

This service is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor and for the type of district affords adequate facilities. Apart from occasional difficulties due to heavy demands on the emptying plant at certain seasons it was possible to maintain a reasonably prompt attention to cesspools.

## **4. Rodent Control**

It was found that one operator could cope with all treatments necessary for the destruction of rats and mice and yet carry out an adequate survey of the district to see that the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949, were being complied with. In the table below the inspections and treatments are summarised. An increasing number of farmers are carrying out treatment of their own land and buildings using the poison "Warfarin" with considerable success.



	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
Total number of Properties	5	6168	960	334	7467
Number of Properties inspected :—					
Complaint   ...   ...	—	82	5	11	98
Survey       ...   ...	5	1824	178	100	2107
Infestations found :					
Rat     ...   ...   ...	5	59	35	3	102
Mice    ...   ...   ...	—	10	—	2	12
Number of Properties Treated   ...   ...   ...	5	69	1	5	80

5.   **Disinfection and Disinfestation**

(i) Disinfection of rooms vacated by persons suffering from an infectious disease is carried out as soon as possible after the removal of the patient, and in the case of Tuberculosis, following vacation of the premises by the patient or when the patient dies. There were thirty-three rooms disinfected during the year and 46 visits made for purposes of enquiries, etc.

(ii) Disinfestation. There was some increase in the number of visits made in connection with disinfestation of vermin but the infestations were light and responded satisfactorily to the treatment advised.

6.   **Inspection of District**

Details of the character and number of inspections and visits made during the year are given in Appendix “B.” This Table also shows the wide variety of duties which are being carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors.

**SECTION VI**

**FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION**

**Food Supplies**

Regular inspection for the supervision of the preparation and handling of foodstuffs were carried out throughout the year, and it was found that the general standard of hygiene in these matters was fairly high. In the course of the year it was necessary to serve

8 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act and the work asked for was completed during the year.

The notices recommended by the Ministry of Food requesting customers not to take dogs into food shops were distributed by hand and, with very few exceptions, were favourably received by the trade.

Retailers of food supplies have been found very co-operative in notifying to the Sanitary Inspectors of any articles which do not appear satisfactory and Appendix "C" shows a list of foodstuffs which was found on examination following these complaints or during routine inspection to be unfit for human consumption.

### (i) Milk

There was again only a slight increase in the number of persons selling milk and the position at the end of the year was as follows :—

Registered Distributors of Milk	...	...	18 (16)
Registered Dairies (other than Farms)	...	...	4 ( 4)

Of these 18 Distributors, 9 persons residing in the Swale Rural District (Dealers) and 8 residing outside the District but retailing milk in the area (Supplementary) applied for licences to use special designations in respect of milk sold by them. The licences issued were for the sale of the undermentioned specially designated milks :

#### (a) Licences issued to Dealers :—

To use the designation—

"Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...	3 (3)
"Pasteurised "	...	...	...	3 (3)
"Sterilised "	...	...	...	5 (3)

#### (b) Supplementary Licences :—

To use the designation—

"Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...	6 (6)
"Pasteurised "	...	...	...	5 (5)
"Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised "	...	...	...	1 (1)
"Sterilised "	...	...	...	2 (2)

During the year 7 samples of milk were taken for examination by the County Laboratory.

Grade .				Number of samples taken	Number of unsatisfactory samples
Pasteurised	...	...	...	3	—
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	2	—
Raw Milk	...	...	...	2	1

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to previous year.

There is no legal standard laid down for the cleanliness of raw milk but the facts were reported to the County Milk Production Officer.

## **(ii) Ice Cream**

One additional registration was made in 1952 and there are now 51 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. There is no ice cream manufactured for sale in the Swale area.

During the year 20 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination but the results were not quite so satisfactory as in the previous year.

		Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
1950	.....	14 (37%)	1 (2.6%)	18 (47.4%)	5 (13%)	38
1951	.....	11 (91.77%)	1 (8.3%)	—	—	12
1952	.....	15 (75%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	20

The premises from which the unsatisfactory samples were obtained were visited again and repeat samples taken were then found satisfactory.

## **(iii) Meat**

The home killed meat sold in the area is supplied from neighbouring authorities as there are no slaughterhouses in use in the district. Meat is inspected in the shops at times of inspection or on complaint from the butcher and the amount surrendered as unfit for human consumption is shown in Appendix "C".

## **(iv) Fish Frying**

There are only two premises used in the area and these are both satisfactory.

## **(v) Bakehouses**

Only three bakehouses are in use and at the times when visited were found to be well maintained.

## **(vi) Food and Drugs Act**

The administration of that portion of this Act dealing with the genuineness of articles offered for sale is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council who have kindly supplied the following details of their work in the area.

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to previous year.



# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the SWALE RURAL DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Aspirin .....	1	B/fd. ....	23
Baked Beans .....	1	Juice of Real Lemons .....	1
Balsam of Aniseed .....	1	Kent Honey .....	1
Barley Drops .....	1	Milk .....	33
Beef Sausages .....	1	Mixed Vegetables .....	1
Bittasweet Marmalade .....	1	Morelto .....	1
Blackcurrant Linctus .....	1	National Plain Flour .....	1
Boro Lanoline .....	1	Oxo Cubes .....	1
Buttamints .....	1	Pineapple and Raspberry	
Cake Flour .....	1	Wheat Crunch .....	1
Cooking Fat .....	1	Plum Jam .....	1
Epsom Salts .....	2	Pork Luncheon Meat .....	1
Fish Paste .....	1	Sage and Onion Stuffing ...	1
Friars Balsam .....	1	Steak Pie .....	1
Gin .....	1	Sugar .....	1
Glucodin .....	1	Sweety Fiss Health Salts ...	1
Gravy Salt .....	1	Tincture of Iodine .....	1
Ground White Pepper .....	1	Tiny Chloro-gums .....	1
Health Salts .....	1	Whisky .....	2
Heatherdown Spread .....	1	Thyme .....	1
Ice Cream .....	2	White Pepper .....	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
C/fd. ....	23	Total ...	75
	<hr/>		<hr/>

### SUMMARY

Milks ...	...	...	...	33
Drugs ...	...	...	...	12
Spirits ...	...	...	...	3
Other Samples ...	...	...	...	27
				<hr/>
				75
				<hr/>



All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of	Analysis		Action taken
Buttamints	Inferior.	Fat 0.31% ; should contain at least 4% butter fat.	Manufacturers agreed to increase butter fat or amend label.
Milk	Inferior.	10% deficient in fat.	Supplier warned. Further sample satisfactory.
Milk	Inferior.	10% deficient in fat.	No action. Further sample satisfactory.
Channel Islands Milk	Adulterated.	Contained 9.1% added water.	} Proceedings instituted. Fine £15. Costs £3 3s.
do.	Adulterated.	Contained 7.6% added water.	
do.	Adulterated.	Contained 8.37% added water.	
Milk	Adulterated.	Contained 3.3% added water.	} Supplier cautioned
Milk	Adulterated.	Contained 3.2% added water.	
Milk	Adulterated.	Contained 4.8% added water.	

## SECTION VII

### HOUSING

There are in this area approximately 3,200 houses which are in need of repair, reconditioning or demolition, but the very high cost of building repairs prevents any material progress in dealing with this problem. This deterioration in the condition of property has gone on for a number of years and if allowed to continue will nullify the benefit of the many houses the Council have built since 1947.

Action for the abatement of the more serious defects was confined to procedure under the Public Health Acts and details of the notices served, together with a schedule of works which were carried out to comply with the requirements of these notices, is given in Appendix “D”.

## Individual Unfit Houses

During 1952 reports under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, were submitted to the Council in respect of the undermentioned premises, and action was taken as indicated :—

5, Elm Cottages, Lower Halstow—Demolished before Demolition Order made.

Jezwil, Dawes Road, Dunkirk—Demolition Order made.

Ladds Cottage, Bapchild—Demolition Order made.

California Bungalow, Iwade—Demolition Order made.

No. 3, Oast Cottages, Dunkirk—Undertaking not to relet made by Owner.

Following on action taken by the Council in previous years, the following premises were dealt with as indicated :—

Church Cottage, Broom Street, Graveney (2)	} Demolished
6, 7 and 8, Elm Cottages, Lower Halstow	
Cottage, School Lane, Boughton	

5, High Street, Newington — Reconditioned — Undertaking cancelled.

## New Houses

During 1952 there were 68 houses completed, 18 by Private Enterprise and 50 by Local Authority (this included 2 houses which were re-erected).

## Hop Pickers' Camps

Efforts were started early in the year to get as many improvements to the huts as possible and with an excellent response from the Growers a great deal was achieved. These Camps do present difficulties, but by getting some improvement each year the standard in this area has risen considerably. There are 37 Camps accommodating some 7,500 pickers and during the year 293 visits were paid.

The following is a brief summary of improvements carried out :—

- 60 new huts replacing obsolete ones
- 174 huts provided with glazed windows
- 98 huts provided with concrete floors
- 6 additional main water points installed
- 3 new cookhouses provided

It was gratifying to find that contrary to general expectation none of the glass windows were broken—a fact which helps considerably in getting this amenity extended.

## SECTION VIII

### SHOPS AND FACTORIES

#### 1. Shops Act

The County Council have delegated their responsibility under the Shops Act, viz. hours of closing and employment of staff, to the District Council who therefore administer the whole Act. Although 482 visits were made to shops in the district during the year it was necessary to serve only two informal notices for improvement to ventilation—both of these were complied with.

#### 2. Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The factories in the Swale Rural District are generally of a small domestic nature and do not present many problems. The following is a statement of the factories in the area with the number of visits paid. There was no occasion for serving any notices during the year.

			Factories Inspections	
With Power	...	...	48	30
Without Power	...	...	73	28
Workplaces	...	...	13	1
			<hr/> 134	<hr/> 59
			<hr/>	<hr/>



# APPENDIX "A"

## Distribution of Cases of Infectious Disease by Parishes

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Totals
Badlesmere .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bapchild .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bobbing .....	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Borden .....	6	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	18
Boughton .....	11	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	18
Bredgar .....	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Buckland .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doddington .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dunkirk .....	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Eastling .....	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Faversham Without .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goodnestone .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graveney .....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Halstow, Lower .....	14	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	21
Hartlip .....	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Hernhill .....	26	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	30
Iwade .....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kingsdown .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leaveland .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luddenham .....	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lynsted .....	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Milsted .....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Newington .....	11	1	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	21
Newnham .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Norton .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oare .....	7	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
Ospringe .....	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Rodmersham .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selling .....	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Sheldwich .....	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Stalisfield .....	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Stone .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Teynham .....	4	2	0	10	1	0	0	2	0	19
Throwley .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tonge .....	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tunstall .....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Upchurch .....	2	3	4	5	0	0	6	0	0	20
	131	28	27	26	12	1	7	2	2	236

## APPENDIX “ B ”

### RECORD OF INSPECTIONS BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

#### HOUSING

Rural Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	6
Visits under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	11
Re-visits under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	30
Council House Applications	...	...	...	...	329
Council House Tenancies	...	...	...	...	43

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Complaints re Houses	...	...	...	...	344
Other Complaints	...	...	...	...	45
Re-visits (Houses)	...	...	...	...	1029
Other Re-visits	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Visits under P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	50
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	46
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	30
Hop-pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	293
Schools	...	...	...	...	9
Visits re Vermin	...	...	...	...	17

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND SHOPS

##### Food Premises :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	9
Grocery and General	...	...	...	...	225
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	77
Inns	...	...	...	...	62
Butchers	...	...	...	...	53
Fried and Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Shops (Non-food)	...	...	...	...	43

#### FACTORIES

With Power	...	...	...	...	38
Non-Power	...	...	...	...	28
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	1

#### GENERAL

Interviews	...	...	...	...	515
Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	162
Building Licences	...	...	...	...	17
Visits with M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	23
Visits with D.S.I.	...	...	...	...	25
Re Alterations and Extensions	...	...	...	...	12

## WORK DONE BY INSPECTOR

### Samples for Examination :—

Cress	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fæces	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

### General :—

Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	33
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## APPENDIX "C"

### UN SOUND FOOD

#### Food found to be unfit for human consumption

12 lbs. Sausages	...	...	...	...	Sour
194 lbs. English Beef	...	...	...	...	Anasarca
7 lbs. Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	Abscess
11½ lbs. Bovine Liver	...	...	...	...	Distomatosis
5 lbs. Beef	...	...	...	...	Bruising
29 Eggs	...	...	...	...	Decomposition

## APPENDIX “ D ”

### 1. NOTICES SERVED

	Public Health Act, 1936	Housing Act, 1936	Food & Drugs Act, 1938	Shops Act, 1934	Factories Act, 1937	Milk & Dairies Regs. 1949
Preliminary Notices served .....	162	—	8	2	—	—
Preliminary Notices complied with .	122	—	8	2	—	—
Statutory Notices served .....	4	—	—	—	—	—
Statutory Notices complied with .	4	—	—	—	—	—

### 2. WORK COMPLETED AS A RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN

#### (a) HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

##### External :—

Roofs and flashing	...	...	...	...	55
Chimneys and flues	...	...	...	...	7
Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	32
R.W. Downpipes	...	...	...	...	14
Walls (brickwork, pointing, etc.)	...	...	...	...	22
Drainage systems provided	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage repaired/cleansed	...	...	...	...	32
Dustbins renewed/provided	...	...	...	...	2
Conversions—privies to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	15
Conversions—pails to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	3

##### Internal :—

Walls	...	...	...	...	27
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	12
Floors	...	...	...	...	33
Windows	...	...	...	...	23
Doors	...	...	...	...	14
Ranges, etc., repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Sinks provided/renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Sink wastes renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Coppers repaired/provided	...	...	...	...	1
Stairs repaired/improved	...	...	...	...	2

Dampness otherwise abated	...	...	...	18
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	11
Privies repaired	...	...	...	7
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	4
Verminous houses freed from vermin	...	...	...	3
Other repairs to houses	...	...	...	11

Reconditioning :—

Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	1
Houses reconstructed or extended	...	...	...	1

(b) FOOD PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors repaired	...	...	...	8
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors cleansed	...	...	...	7
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	2
Cleanliness improved	...	...	...	5
Hot-water supplies provided	...	...	...	1



